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REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR  
SUBJECT Political; Military; Scientific -  
Atomic bomb test  
HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers  
WHERE PUBLISHED Moscow; Alma-Ata; Kiev  
DATE PUBLISHED 1 Aug - 31 Oct 1951  
LANGUAGE Russian; Kazakh

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951

DATE DIST. 4 FEB 1952

NO. OF PAGES 7

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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CONTENT VARIATION DURING RECENT A-BOMB TEST

This report reviews the activity of certain representative Soviet papers during the recent USSR A-bomb test and notes the extent to which reference was made to the test itself. For the report, Pravda, organ of the Central and Moscow Oblast committees, VKP(b), and Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, Russian-language organ of the Central and Alma-Ata Oblast committees, KP(b) of Kazakhstan, were surveyed for the period 1 August - 31 October 1951, and Sotsialistik Kazakhstan, Kazakh-language organ of the Central and Alma-Ata Oblast committees, KP(b) of Kazakhstan, for the period 14-30 August 1951.

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The only direct information appearing on the bomb test was the 6 October Pravda article, "Reply of Comrade I. V. Stalin to a Pravda Correspondent Concerning Atomic Weapons," and the ensuing foreign press comments. There were no other direct references to the test, and no indirect or veiled allusions to the test discerned.

Pravda contained no references to an atomic bomb test or any activities connected with such a test until 6 October, when the above-mentioned article first appeared. This item was also printed by Vechernyaya Moskva on that date, and was carried on 7 October by all other papers not published daily. A complete translation of this article may be found in Joint Press Reading Service, No 279, 6 October 1951, Section A.

On 20 September, Pravda carried a three-column article by Academician A. Nesmeyanov, President of the Academy of Sciences USSR, excoriating the American warmongers and their atomic and superatomic bombs and praising progressive, peace-loving scientists like Joliot-Curie, but no mention or suggestion was made of any Soviet atomic experimentation.

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The lead editorial in Pravda the day the Stalin statement appeared, an article entitled "The Soviet Scientist," declared, in discussing the great advances made by Soviet science: "Surrounded by the care of the party and the Soviet government, our scientists are successfully solving the task set forth by Comrade Stalin -- not only to catch up to, but also to surpass in the immediate future the achievements of science in other countries." A condensed text of this article may be found in Joint Press Reading Service, No 279, 6 October 1951, Section B.

Pravda, on 7 October, carried nothing on the test, but on 8 October devoted a full page to foreign comment on Stalin's announcement. This feature continued daily through 16 October, with a concluding three-column summary article appearing on 19 October. After that no further reference to the bomb appeared.

The foreign comment for the period 8 - 16 October consisted of 112 Tass dispatches from 32 different countries. The final article on 19 October summed up these comments as follows:

"The fact that the Soviet Union possesses atomic weapons increases the chances of the fighters for peace and their confidence that the aggressive plans of the atom-mongers will be cut short. Atomic blackmail has been fundamentally undermined by the liquidation of the American monopoly of the atomic bomb. These are the main conclusions which may be drawn from the countless comments which have been evoked throughout the world by I. V. Stalin's statement." Several of the dispatches spoke of peaceful uses for atomic energy -- its application in peaceful pursuits for the good of the people, in the transformation of nature, in peaceful construction, and in increasing production. Frequent reference was also made to the atomic weapons control plan presented to the United Nations by the Soviet Union and to the proposed five-power peace pact. Stressed throughout was the peace theme and the idea that Stalin's announcement provides great new hopes for world peace. The general tone of the articles was that the Soviet Union has finally and conclusively broken the American monopoly over atomic weapons.

Only four dispatches made any mention of previous Soviet tests or experimentation, and one of these was only a vague reference. The latter was in a 10 October dispatch from Stockholm, which stated that: "Soviet scientists strive to use atomic energy for the gigantic peaceful projects in the transformation of nature. Now the world has once again heard that the Americans do not possess a monopoly on the manufacture of atomic weapons."

The other three were as follows: A report from Bucharest on 8 October commented that peace-loving people had been filled with boundless joy and hope upon learning from a Tass dispatch of 25 September 1949 that the Soviet Union possessed the secret of the atomic bomb. In Pravda, 13 October, a report from Prague stated that "back in 1949 the atomic blackmailers saw with horror that their atomic monopoly had become a thing of the past when it developed that the Soviet Union also possessed atomic weapons." On 14 October a Tass dispatch from Peiping stated: "... we know that after 1947 the USA ceased to have a monopoly on the secret of producing the atomic bomb. One of the most important reasons why the American imperialists did not dare use the atomic bomb is the fact that they knew of the presence of atomic weapons in the camp of peace and democracy."

In connection with Stalin's statement, Pravda Ukrainy, 17 October, announced that the State Publishing House of Political Literature Ukrainian SSR had printed 200,000 copies of a leaflet in Ukrainian entitled: "I. V. Stalin. Reply to a Pravda Correspondent Concerning Atomic Weapons."

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Inasmuch as Kazakhstan, and in particular Semipalatinsk and East Kazakhstan oblasts, Kazakh SSR, has frequently been mentioned as a possible location of Soviet atomic plants or testing grounds, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, the Russian-language republic newspaper, was surveyed for all of August, September, and October. The Kazakh-language republic paper, Sotsialistik Kazakstan, however, was covered only for the period 14 - 30 August; past observation had indicated that there most probably would be no significant difference between the Russian-language and native-language newspapers, and the present 17-day survey of Sotsialistik Kazakstan did not seem to prove any exception.

As far as direct reference to the bomb, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda followed the same pattern as Pravda: Stalin's statement appeared on 7 October, the day after Pravda carried the item, and was followed on 9, 10, 14, 16, and 17 October by Tass dispatches concerning foreign comments. After 17 October there was no further mention of the subject.

In regard to Semipalatinsk and East Kazakhstan oblasts, Pravda for the 3-month period contained no items at all datelined from or dealing principally with this area, and in the republic papers no reference to the bomb test itself or to any activities which might be connected with it was discerned, and no unusual articles noted. A listing was made, however, of every article originating in or concerned primarily with these oblasts, irrespective of subject, to show how many and what types of items appeared and whether the frequency of such items increased, decreased, or remained approximately the same. This information is presented below in condensed tabular form, but is available in detail in FDD if needed.

Sotsialistik Kazakstan: Only the major articles from this newspaper were recorded.

Subject	14 - 19 Aug		20 - 26 Aug		27 - 30 Aug	
	Semi	E Kaz	Semi	E Kaz	Semi	E Kaz
Harvest	3	-	1	1	2	-
Animal husbandry	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kolkhoz life	1	-	1	-	-	-
Industry, production, construction	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ust'-Kamenogorsk Hydroelectric Station	-	-	-	1	-	-
Education	1	-	-	-	-	-
World Peace Council Appeal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Party affairs	-	-	2	-	-	-
Government affairs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	1	5	2	3	-

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Kazakhstanskaya Pravda: Every article found for the period 1 August through 31 October was recorded.

Subject	1-5 Aug		6-12 Aug		13-19 Aug		20-26 Aug		27 Aug-2 Sep		Total
	Semi	E Kas	Semi	E Kas	Semi	E Kas	Semi	E Kas	Semi	E Kas	
Harvest	1	-	5	1	2	1	3	-	4	2	19
Animal husbandry	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	1	6
Kolkhoz life	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	3
Industry, production, construction	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	6
Ust'-Kamenogorsk Hydroelectric Station	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Education	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	5
World Peace Council Appeal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Party affairs	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Government affairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	1	3	2	2	-	3	2	-	13
Total	3	2	6	6	8	6	8	6	9	3	57

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Subject	7-9 Sep		10-16 Sep		17-23 Sep		24-30 Sep		Total
	Seri	P Kas	Seri	P Kas	Seri	P Kas	Seri	P Kas	
Harvest	1	1	1	-	2	1	-	1	7
Animal husbandry	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
Kolkhoz life	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Industry, production, construction	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	6
Vat'-Kamenogorsk Hydroelectric Station	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Education	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
World Peace Council Appeal	2	-	3	-	-	1	2	2	10
Party affairs	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
Government affairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	-	9
Total	9	5	7	1	5	5	6	7	45

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Subject	1-7 Oct		8-14 Oct		15-21 Oct		22-24, 26-29, 31 Oct		Total
	Semi	F Kas	Semi	F Kas	Semi	F Kas	Semi	F Kas	
Harvest	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Animal husbandry	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	4
Kolkhoz life	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Industry, production, construction	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	4
Ust'-Kamenogorsk Hydroelectric Station	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	4
Education	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
World Peace Council Appeal	2	2	4	1	-	2	-	-	11
Party affairs	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Government affairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	12
Total	6	5	8	5	3	6	2	7	32
Stalin statement and foreign comment	1		3		2		-		6

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These figures indicate no marked change in the attention devoted to Semipalatinsk and East Kazakhstan oblasts as represented by the number of items printed. The only clear trends are the decline in articles on agriculture from August to September and September to October, and the considerable attention given to the World Peace Council Appeal beginning in September and continuing through October.

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